

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In response to the Examiner's formality-based objections to the claims, they have all been amended so as to avoid the Examiner's objections. Accordingly, all outstanding formal issues are now believed to have been resolved in the applicant's favor.

The rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Hu et al. '898 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11-18 and 20 remain now pending in this application.

Independent claims 1, 20 and 14 include a new limitation requiring an MT pulse formed as an RF pulse of "an off-resonance less than 10 msec. and of a waveform based on either a Sinc function or a Gaussian function."

This limitation is described in the specification, for example, at page 13, line 24 - page 14, line 5.

According to the amended claims, it is clear that the present invention is not anticipated by Hu et al. '898. Hu et al. uses binomial pulses (1-2-1 pulse) serving as a fat-suppression pulse, as described in column 9, lines 3-14 and claims 1-4.

In contrast, the present invention uses, as the MT pulse, an RF pulse whose duration is less than 10 msec and whose waveform is based on either a Sinc function or a Gaussian function. In this regard, the present invention is totally different from Hu et al.

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Use of binomial pulses will result in imaging that suffers from a large influence of non-uniformity of the static magnetic field. Further, the mere use of an RF pulse based on the Sinc function or Gaussian function means that it would normally be expected to take a long time to apply the MT pulse. However, employing the MT pulse as described by the present invention one is able to resolve both of the above problems at the same time.

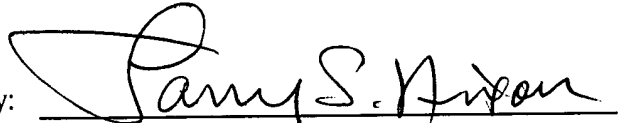
This dual and unexpected advantage is based on the inventor's finding that even though the duration of the MT pulse is shortened, one can still enjoy, in a synergistic manner, both the desired MT effects resulting from the MT pulse itself and MT effects resulting from a train of imaging pulses following the application of the MT pulse.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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